

Recycling Ethics for a Sustainable Circular Economy

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Content

1. Terms Express World views

Recycling, Circular Economy, Sustainability,
beings which are useful or do harm (varmint)

2. Circular Economy is Caring and Sharing Economy

3. Circular Economy is Spiritual Economy

producers, legislators, consumers

4. From the AAA to the innovative triple EEE

Tre-une and holistic: Ethics, Economy, Ecology

5. Religions united for Circular Economy and Climate Justice

1. Terms Express World Views

- **Circular Economy:** production, consumption and recycling of goods and services is embedded in the natural and cultural cycles of the earth and of societies
- **Recycling:** reuse, re-integration, efficiency, good stewardship
- **Sustainability:** *Brundtland-Commission 1987/ Rio 1992:* Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. *Intergenerational justice Stückelberger:* Sustainable development enables the present generation to live a life in dignity without endangering the life in dignity of future generations or the non-human environment. *Intergenerational and human-non-human justice*
- **Beings which are useful or do harm (varmints)**

2.1 Circular Economy is Caring and Sharing Economy

- Compassion is the ability to have empathy, emotion, sensitivity and rational capability for the needs of oneself and the other.
- Care is the ability to transfer compassion into concrete behaviour and action towards oneself and the other.
- Care and Compassion are key values in all worldviews and religions (Globethics.net International Conference 2009).

2.2 Caring: From the Ego to the SELF

For Eastern Religions (e.g. Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism) caring and compassion are rooted in the inner way from the Ego to the SELF as practised e.g. in Yoga (e.g. Patanjali: Yoga Sutras):

- The yoga way of transformation means liberation from the Ego in order to find/be united with the SELF.
- This liberation through life-long exercises means overcoming material and bodily desirousness and dependency.

2.3 Caring: Triple Love of God, the other, oneself

For Monotheist Religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam), care and compassion are rooted in the love of God:

- „Not mine, but your (God’s) will shall be done“ (Jesus)
- „Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: love your neighbor as yourself.“ (Matthew 22:37-39). The Golden Rule of mutual respect exists in all World religions and philosophies. But in Judaism and Christianity, the first of the double commandment is the basis to be able to live the Golden Rule.

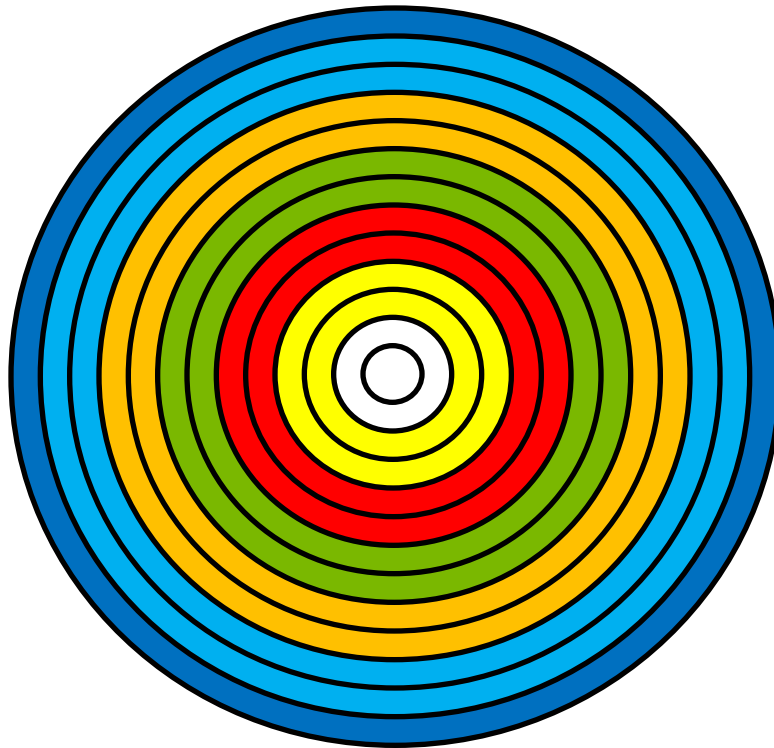
2.4 Caring for the Five „Skins“

A holistic anthropology underlines the link between the human and the non-human. Each human being needs five levels of „skin“ to protect his/her life and to care for it. These are five basic needs:

1. skin: the biological skin of the body: food, water
2. „skin“: clothes
3. „skin“: housing
4. „skin“: community
5. „skin“: climate, atmosphere (protects from ozone and is vital for all life on earth etc.)

2.5 Caring: on all levels

Caring from myself up to the biosphere



White:

1 **Myself**

2 **Inner Family: partner, children**

Yellow

3 **Broader Family: Clan**

4 **Professional Community: team**

Red

5 **Neighbourhood: village, quarter**

6 **Religious Community: parish/temple**

Green

7 **Peers: sport, ethnic, interest groups**

8 **Professional Community: company**

Brown

9 **Nation: state, peoples,**

10 **Regions: EU, Asean**

Blue

11 **All Religions: world spirituality**

12 **Humankind: all human beings**

Dark Blue

13 **Biosphere: all living beings**

3.1 Circular Economy is Spiritual Economy for producers, legislators, consumers

Similarities in ethical consequences of the „Eastern“ and „Western“ spiritual approaches:

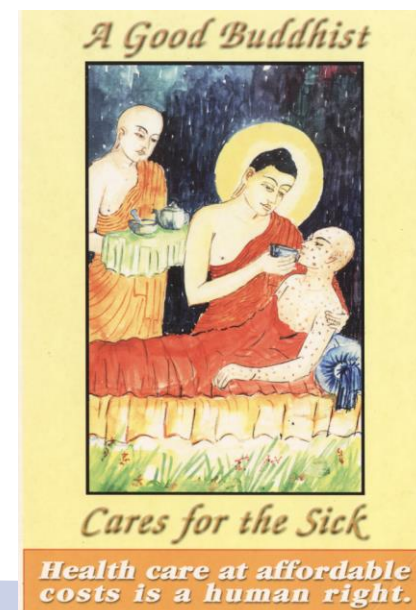
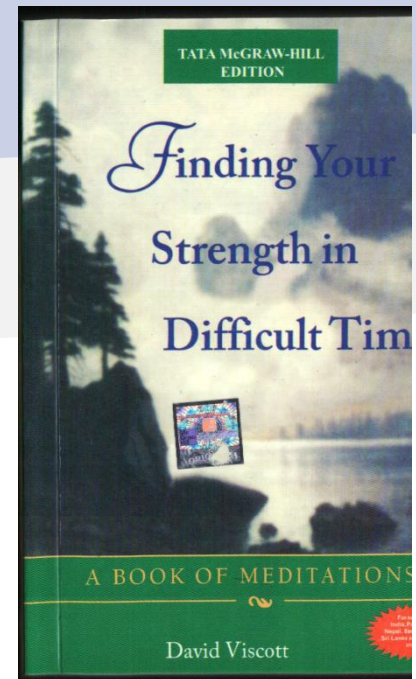
- from greed to modesty
- from selfishness to care and compassion
- from dependency to inner freedom
- from fear to security
- from violence to non-violence
- from superficial reality to truth as deeper reality

Differences:

„Overcome material world“ vs „transform material world“

3.2 Ethics includes Spirituality

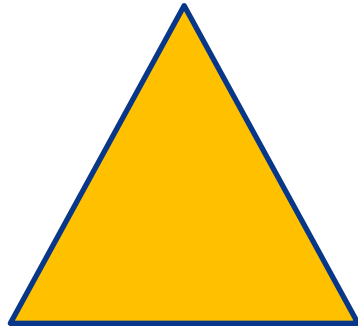
- The worldwide thirst for spiritual orientation and nurturing energy
- Anuvrat Circular Economy based on spirituality
- 400'000 sold copies of an Indian book on meditation (image)
- Dr. Das' book «The difficulty of being good» (Hindu business ethics) as bestseller
- Christian, Muslim, Hindu retreats and meditation on Business Executives
- Encourage companies to include the religious component of csr/business
- Ethics and spirituality means enabling behavioral change



4.1 From the AAA to the innovative triple EEE: Ethics, Economy, Ecology

- Old AAA

Financial
Performance

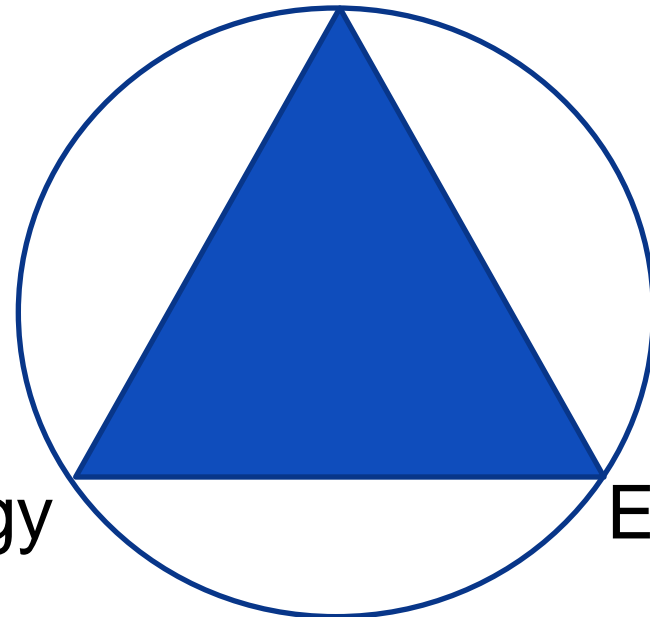


(Ecology)

(Social)

New EEE

Ethics



Ecology

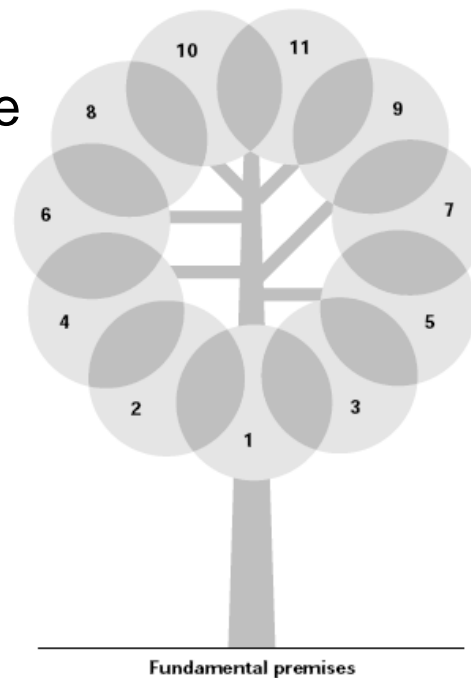
Economy

Problems can be successfully solved only when all three dimensions are included:
Value orientation, caring for creation, economic sustainability

4.2 E = Ethics: Value-driven behavior

Core Values (benchmarks)

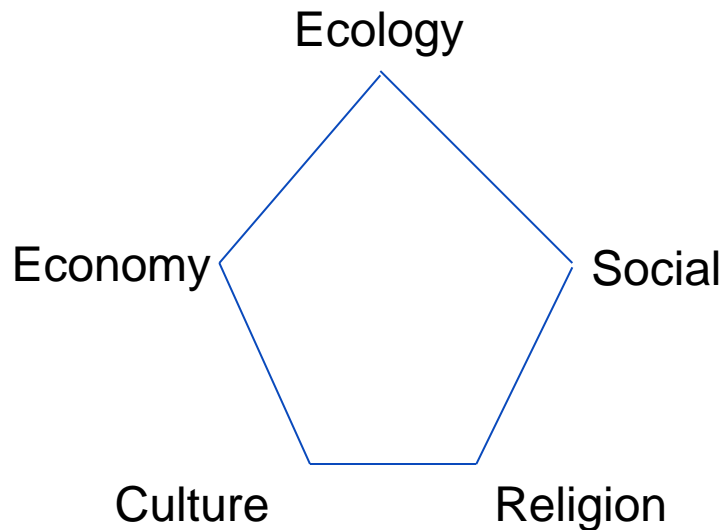
- Fairness/Justice
- Efficiency/Performance
- Sustainability
- Freedom
- Responsibility
- Community
- Empowerment
- Participation
- Caring/Solidarity
- Peace
- Trust



Core Virtues (Attitudes)

- Honesty
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Credibility
- Modesty
- Compassion

4.3 E = Ecology with 5 Dimensions



- Saveguarding the natural resources must be the first priority since it is the basis of all other values and objectives
- The sustainability triangle must be enlarged by culture and religion as two integral dimensions of human dignity: respect of cultural diversity and religious believe.

4.4 E = Economy holistic

- Economy has to be redefined in a holistic sense: the production, distribution, consumption and recycling of goods and services in order to allow a life in dignity for all living creatures, human and non-human.
- Human beings are not only «homo oeconomicus», rational egoistic individuals, but also interested in social networks, communities and caring for the other.
- Capitalism 2.0 has to be based on EEE
- Innovation: means faster delivery, resource-saving, accessibility of products/services for the needy (see report «The World's 50 Most Innovative Companies 2013)

5. Religions united for Circular Economy and Climate Justice

- Religious Communities from all world religions cooperate for circular, sustainable, ethical economy and have intensify these efforts.
- Good example are the inter-faith international statements on Climate Justice, including the newest one from 22 Sept 2014 in New York at the Climate Summit.

धन्यवाद (Danyavad)

thank you

謝謝

asante sana

merci

gracias

danke

grazie

adube

oshe

obrigado